

Amendments to the Claims**Claims 1-32 (Cancelled)**

33. (Previously presented) A method of handling abrasive solids materials used in an abrasive slurry cutting procedure of a kind which, in use, jets a high pressure abrasive slurry through a nozzle onto a work piece over and/or in a catcher tank, the handling method comprising or including;

catching the used abrasive slurry together with work piece kerf material in said catcher tank,

passing at least some of abrasive solids collected in the catcher tank as a slurry to a partitioning apparatus that includes a vibratory sieve,

partitioning with said partitioning apparatus the slurry to provide at least two solids streams one of which passes through the sieve and one of which passes across the sieve whilst still entrained as a slurry, and

passing as a slurry to the nozzle for jetting a pressurised or pressurisable slurry which includes partitioned solids stream that has passed through the sieve.

34. (Previously presented) A method of claim 33 wherein there is a partitioning of the solids by the partitioning apparatus three ways, the aforementioned two solids streams and oversized solids that drop from the slurry that passes across the sieve and are at least initially retained on the sieve.

35. (Previously presented) A method of claim 34 wherein the solids passed to the nozzle are in the size range of from about 10% to about 70% of the nozzle diameter.

36. (Previously presented) A method of claim 33 wherein the passing as a slurry to the nozzle involves high pressure water expression from a pressure vessel.

37. (Previously presented) A method of claim 33 wherein said partitioning apparatus comprises or includes

a housing having

a first inlet,

a first outlet, and

a collection zone or second outlet, and

a sieve disposed below said first inlet and said first outlet but above said collection zone or second outlet,

and wherein said first inlet is to receive and pass the slurry at a rate and velocity into the housing above the sieve such that at least some of the liquid component(s) of the slurry will, as a flow through, entrain small and/or less dense solids out through said first outlet,

and wherein the rate and velocity of intake into the housing via the first inlet above the sieve and the outflow via the first outlet is such as to enable at least some oversize solids to settle on the sieve (where they are of an appropriate density) and solids (not entrained out of said first outlet) of sufficient density and of a size less than that of the oversized material to pass down through the sieve.

38. (Previously presented) A method of claim 37 wherein said sieve is a directly or indirectly shaken and/or vibratory sieve.

39. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 33 wherein said partitioning apparatus has a collection zone and there is a valved flow path therefrom to a pressure vessel from which, as required at the nozzle, high pressure water can express the solids stream to pass to the nozzle.

40. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 39 wherein there is controllable liquid and/or slurry flow path from said pressure vessel back to said collection zone of the partitioning apparatus capable of moving as a slurry more solids from said collection zone through, via the valved flow path, to said pressure vessel.

41. (Previously presented) A method of claim 33 wherein there is included the step of providing a replenishing feed of abrasive solids.

42. (Previously presented) A method of claim 41 wherein said replenishing solids are introduced into said catcher tank.

43. (Previously presented) A method of claim 33 wherein there is provided a solids agitation water feed into the catcher tank.

44. (Previously presented) A method of claim 33 wherein there is an overflow out take of at least water from the catcher tank.

45. (Previously presented) A method of claim 33 wherein a control system reliant on at least one sensor provides a control of valves and pumps which determines the modes of operation of the system capable of performing the method.

Claims 46-56. (Cancelled).